

# Chhattisgarhi language

**Chhattisgarhi** (Devanagari: छत्तीसगढ़ी) or as (Laria/Loriya ) is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by 18 million people in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. It is closely related to Awadhi, Bagheli and Odia (spoken in the western orissa) .

Chhattisgarhi has been known by the name *Khaltahi* to surrounding hill-people and by the name *Loriya* to speakers in neighboring regions of Odisha to Chhattisgarh. The speakers are concentrated in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh and in adjacent areas of Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Jharkhand. Chhattisgarhi cultural and political movements, with origins from the 1920s, affirmed Chhattisgarhi linguistic and cultural identity and sought greater autonomy within India. It was 1 November, 2000 when 16 districts in the state of Madhya Pradesh became the new state of Chhattisgarh.

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## Classification

Chhattisgarhi is most closely related to other Eastern Hindi languages such as Bagheli and Awadhi, forming part of the East-central zone of the Indo-Aryan languages.

Its precise relationship to Hindi is complex, and as with other members of the Hindustani dialect continuum, its status as a dialect or separate language is to some degree a judgment call. According to the Indian Government, Chhattisgarhi is an eastern dialect of Hindi, but it is classified as a separate language in Ethnologue.

Chhattisgarhi	
<span>छत्तीसगढ़ी, छत्तिसगढ़ी , ଛତିଶଗଡ଼ି</span>	
Native to	India
Region	Chhattisgarh and minor areas in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra
Native speakers	18 million, partial count, including Surgujia (2011 census) <sup>[1]</sup> (additional speakers counted under Hindi)
Language family	<div>Indo-European<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Indo-Iranian<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Indo-Aryan<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Central (Hindi)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eastern Hindi<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Chhattisgarhi</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Writing system	Devanagari Odia
Official status	
Official language <span> </span> in	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> India (Chhattisgarh)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>hne – Chhattisgarhi</div> <div>sgj – Surgujia</div>
Glottolog	chha1249 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chha1249</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
Linguasphere	59-AAF-ta

# Vocabulary

Eastern Hindi dialects consist of Chhattisgarhi, Awadhi, and Bagheli. All three dialects are closely related to each other. Chhattisgarhi, due to its heavy indigenous vocabulary and grammar, has always been treated as a distinct language. Awadhi and Bagheli are very closely associated with each other. Bagheli has been treated as separate from Awadhi due to its regional association with Baghelkhand; otherwise, it is considered a southern form of Awadhi.

Comparison of word list

English	Chhattisgarhi	Awadhi	Bagheli
and	अउ (au)	अउर (aur)	अउर (aur)
father	ददा (dada)	बाप (bapa)	बाबू (dadu)
right	जेवनी (jevani)	दाहिना (dahina)	दाए (dae)
tree	रुख (rukḥ)	पेड़ (ped)	पेड़ (ped)
you	तैं,तेहा (tum, teha)	तैं (tu)	तय (tayu)
come	आवव (aavav)	आओ (aao)	आ (aa)
good	बने (bane)	बढ़िया (badiya)	बढ़िया (badiya)
name	नाव (naav)	नाम (naam)	नाम (naam)
pond	तरिया (tariya)	तालाब (talaba)	तलाउ (talaua)

# Dialects

Chhattisgarhi has five different main dialect clusters on the basis of geographical division:

1. Kedri (Central) Chhattisgarhi
- This is purest form Chhattisgarhi, which is spoken in most of the Mahanadi Basin. Kedri Chhattisgarhi is uninfluenced by any other languages except Hindi. It is mostly spoken in the Bilaspur, Durg, Bemetara, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, and Kanker Districts of Chhattisgarh.
2. Utti (Eastern) Chhattisgarhi
- Utti Chhattisgarhi, also known as Laria, is mostly spoken in the Raigarh, Mahasamund, Gariaband, and Raipur Districts of Chhattisgarh.
3. Budati / Khaltahi (Western) Chhattisgarhi
- Marathi-language influence can be seen in Khaltahi Chhattisgarhi. It is mostly spoken in the Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh and in the Kabirdham and Bemetara Districts of Chhattisgarh.
4. Bhandar (Northern) Chhattisgarhi
- Also known as Sargujia Chhattisgarhi, it is mostly spoken in the Korias, Surajpur, Sarguja, Jashpur, and Balrampur Districts of Chhattisgarh.

## 5. Rakshahun (Southern) Chhattisgarhi

Mostly spoken in Dandkaranya region (Bastar) of Chhattisgarh. Godi and Halbi are other dialects which are widely spoken here.

In addition to Chhattisgarhi Proper, other dialects of Chhattisgarhi are Baighani, Bhulia, Binjhware, Kalanga, Kavardi, Khairagarhi, Sadri Korwa, and Surgujia. Surgujia is considered by some to be a distinct language.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Writing

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Chhattisgarhi, like Hindi, is written using the Devanagari script, although it used to be written using the Odia script.

## Chhattisgarhi Language Day

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Chhattisgarhi Language Day (Chhattisgarhi Diwas) is celebrated every year on November 28 across the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. This day is regulated by the state government.

## Film industry

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After the formation of the new state, films in the Chhattisgarhi language attracted artists everywhere around India. World-renowned vocalist Lata Mangeshkar and many others have sung songs in Chhattisgarhi. As the film industry is growing at a fast pace, Chhattisgarhi-language cinema it is now popularly known as Chhollywood.

## See also

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- Languages of India
- Languages with official status in India
- List of Indian languages by total speakers

## Sources

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- G. A. Zograph: *Languages of South Asia*, 1960 (translated by G.L. Campbell, 1982), Routledge, London.

## References

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1. 16.3 million for Chhattisgarhi and 1.74 million for Surgujia.  
Chhattisgarhi (<https://www.ethnologue.com/21/language/hne>) at *Ethnologue* (21st ed., 2018)  
Surgujia (<https://www.ethnologue.com/21/language/sjj>) at *Ethnologue* (21st ed., 2018)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Chhattisgarhi" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/chha1249>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Surgujia (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/sjj/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

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- C. K. Chandrakar, "Chhattisgarhi Shabadkosh"
- C. K. Chandrakar, "Manak Chhattisgarhi Vyakaran"
- C. K. Chandrakar, "Chhattisgarhi Muhawara Kosh"
- Chhattisgarh Rajbhasha Aayog, "Prashashnik Shabdkosh Vol. I & II"

Web magazine in Chhattisgarhi language [गुरतुर गोठ \(http://www.gurturgoth.com\)](http://www.gurturgoth.com)

## External links

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- [\[1\] \(http://gurturgoth.com/\)](http://gurturgoth.com/).gurturgoth.com webpage on Chhattisgarhi language by Sanjeeva Tiwari, Durg.

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